

**In the Abstract**

Please amend the Abstract as follows.

In a computing device, when a user requests to carry out an operation, the device determines the type of operation requested, and the time period since the user was last authenticated, using e.g. a pass phrase, password, PIN, and/or biometric data. The operation is enabled only if the determined time period does not exceed a threshold for the requested operation. Otherwise, the user is requested to re-authenticate. Thus for a relatively low level secure operation such as reading of email, a pass phrase caching period of, say one hour, may be acceptable; for a high level secure operation such as approving a purchase contract, the pass phrase caching period may be shorter, say three minutes, or may expire upon the completion of the previous operation of the same type.